

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An illumination apparatus illuminating  
an objective illumination region, comprising:

5 a plurality of illuminants having light-emitting  
surfaces radiating diffused light;

an illuminant substrate in which the illuminants  
are disposed so as to be set in array on the  
circumference;

10 at least one optical member configured to guide  
the diffused light to the objective illumination  
region;

a movable section configured to drive the optical  
member so as to be rotatable around the center of the  
circumference serving as a rotation center; and

15 a lighting control section configured to control a  
light-emitting timing of the plurality of illuminants,  
wherein

the movable section and the lighting control  
section operate together such that the quantity of  
20 light per unit time of the diffused light guided to the  
objective illumination region is within a predetermined  
range.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
the lighting control section lights the illuminants  
25 whose light-emitting surfaces are positioned at an area  
on the illuminant substrate which is guided by the  
optical member.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a number of the illuminants which are lit is always the same number.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
5 the number of the illuminants disposed on the illuminant substrate is an odd number,

two of the optical member are made to be one set, and at least one of the set is provided, and

10 the optical member of the respect sets guides the diffused light radiated at a position on the circumference which is point symmetrical with respect to the rotation center, to the objective illumination region.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
15 the number of the illuminants disposed on the illuminant substrate is an even number,

two of the optical member are made to be one set, and at least one of the set is provided, and

20 the optical member of the respect sets guides the diffused light radiated from the illuminant positioned at a position which is point symmetrical with respect to the rotation center, to the objective illumination region.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, further  
25 comprising:

a radiating section configured to radiate heat generated by the plurality of illuminants; and

a radiating exhaust member configured to exhaust  
air contacting with the radiating section, wherein  
a driving force source moving the radiating  
exhaust member and the movable section are the same  
5 motor.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein  
the radiating exhaust member includes a centrifugal fan  
generating the flow of air by rotation of the motor.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein  
10 the centrifugal fan includes a scirocco fan.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
antireflection processing is applied to a surface on  
which the diffused light which is not incident to the  
optical member is illuminated.

10. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
15 light shield processing is applied to prevent the  
diffused light which is not incident to the optical  
member from leaking out of the apparatus.

11. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
20 light guiding members configured to guide the diffused  
light radiated by the illuminant to the optical member  
are disposed for the respective illuminants.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein  
outgoing end surfaces of the light guiding members  
25 radiating light with respect to the optical member are  
disposed without space on a circumference whose  
diameter is smaller than that of the circumference.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the light guiding members include tapered rods.

14. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the incident surface of the optical member is  
5 smaller than the light-emitting surfaces of the respective illuminants,

the light guiding member includes:

a NA conversion section configured to make an NA to which the outgoing light from the light-emitting  
10 surface is incident small; and

an inverted tapered rod to which the ray whose NA is made small by the NA conversion section is incident, and

the inverted tapered rod is a rod in which a size  
15 of the outgoing surface thereof is the substantially same size as the incident surface of the optical member, and the outgoing surface thereof is smaller than the incident surface.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein  
20 the NA conversion section includes a tapered rod.

16. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the NA conversion section includes a microprism array.

17. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the NA conversion section includes a plurality  
25 light guiding prisms disposed in the vicinity of the illuminant in the positional relationship so as to be point symmetrical with respect to the center of the

illuminant, and

the light guiding prism includes:

an incident surface configured to make the  
outgoing light from the illuminant be incident;

5           a reflecting surface configured to reflect  
the light incident from the incident surface and  
guiding the light in the prism to a predetermined  
direction; and

an outgoing surface configured to radiate the  
10   light guided at the reflecting surface.

18. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein  
the reflecting surface has a surface shape satisfying  
the conditions that the light incident from the  
incident surface is reflected.

15           19. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein  
reflection coating reflecting the light incident from  
the incident surface is applied on the reflecting  
surface.

20           20. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein  
reflection coating is applied on surfaces which face  
the other light guiding prisms and which are other than  
the incident surface, the reflecting surface, and  
outgoing surface, among the surfaces structuring the  
light guiding prism.

25           21. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein a  
rear surface of the reflecting surface structuring the  
light guiding prism has a surface shape satisfying

conditions that the outgoing light from the illuminant which is not incident to the incident surface which is a surface structuring the light guiding prism is reflected.

5           22. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein reflection coating reflecting the outgoing light from the illuminant which is not incident to the incident surface which is a surface structuring the light guiding prism is applied on the rear surface of the reflecting surface structuring the light guiding prism.

10           23. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

            a light quantity monitor configured to detect the quantity of the light radiated from the optical member, wherein

15           the movable section and the lighting control section operate together such that the quantity of light detected by the light quantity monitor is substantially constant.

20           24. The apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising:

            a microreflecting prism configured to reflect the light radiated from the optical member; and

            a light guiding plate configured to guide the light reflected by the microreflecting prism, to the light quantity monitor.

25           25. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the plurality of illuminants are disposed so as to be set in array on double circumferences, and

the at least one optical member is disposed so as to correspond to the respective double circumferences.

5        26. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the optical member includes a tapered rod in which an area of the outgoing end surface thereof is larger than an area of the incident end surface thereof.

10       27. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second optical member to which the light radiated from the outgoing end surfaces of the plurality of optical member are incident, wherein

15       the second optical member includes a tapered rod, the tapered rod being fixed to the illuminant substrate and having an outgoing end surface shape which is the substantially same shape as a shape of the objective illumination region.

20       28. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the outgoing end surface of the optical member is one of a polygon and a circular in which the rotation center of the movable section serves as the center thereof.

25       29. An illumination apparatus illuminating an objective illumination region, comprising:

a plurality of illuminants having light-emitting surfaces radiating diffused light;

an illuminant substrate in which the illuminants are disposed so as to be set in array on the circumference;

5 at least one optical member configured to guide the diffused light to the objective illumination region;

a movable section configured to drive the plurality of optical member so as to be rotatable around the center of the circumference serving as a rotation center; and  
10

a lighting control section configured to control a light-emitting timing of the plurality of illuminants, wherein

the movable section and the lighting control section operate together such that an area of the light-emitting surface emitting the diffused light for the light guided to the illumination region is within a predetermined range in variations in time.  
15

30. The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the lighting control section lights the illuminants whose light-emitting surfaces are positioned at an area on the illuminant substrate which is guided by the optical member.  
20

31. The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein a number of the illuminants which are lit is always the same number.  
25

32. The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein



the number of the illuminants disposed on the  
illuminant substrate is an odd number,

two of the optical member are made to be one set,  
and at least one of the set is provided, and

5        the optical member of the respect sets guides the  
diffused light radiated at a position on the  
circumference which is point symmetrical with respect  
to the rotation center, to the objective illumination  
region.

10        33. The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein  
the number of the illuminants disposed on the  
illuminant substrate is an even number,

two of the optical member are made to be one set,  
and at least one of the set is provided, and

15        the optical member of the respect sets guides the  
diffused light radiated from the illuminant positioned  
at a position which is point symmetrical with respect  
to the rotation center, to the objective illumination  
region.

20        34. The apparatus according to claim 29, further  
comprising:

a radiating section configured to radiate heat  
generated by the plurality of illuminants; and

25        a radiating exhaust member configured to exhaust  
air contacting with the radiating section, wherein

a driving force source moving the radiating  
exhaust member and the movable section are the same

motor.

35. The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the radiating exhaust member includes a centrifugal fan generating the flow of air by rotation of the motor.

5        36. The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the centrifugal fan includes a scirocco fan.

37. The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein antireflection processing is applied to a surface on which the diffused light which is not incident to the optical member is illuminated.

10       38. The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein light shield processing is applied to prevent the diffused light which is not incident to the optical member from leaking out of the apparatus.

15       39. The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein light guiding members configured to guide the diffused light radiated by the illuminant to the optical member are disposed for the respective illuminants.

40. The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein outgoing end surfaces of the light guiding members radiating light with respect to the optical member are disposed without space on a circumference whose diameter is smaller than that of the circumference.

20       41. The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the light guiding members include tapered rods.

42. The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the incident surface of the optical member is

smaller than the light-emitting surfaces of the  
respective illuminants,

the light guiding member includes:

a NA conversion section configured to make an  
5 NA to which the outgoing light from the light-emitting  
surface is incident small; and

an inverted tapered rod to which the ray  
whose NA is made small by the NA conversion section is  
incident, and

10 the inverted tapered rod is a rod in which a size  
of the outgoing surface thereof is the substantially  
same size as the incident surface of the optical  
member, and the outgoing surface thereof is smaller  
than the incident surface.

15 43. The apparatus according to claim 42, wherein  
the NA conversion section includes a tapered rod.

44. The apparatus according to claim 42, wherein  
the NA conversion section includes a microprism array.

45. The apparatus according to claim 42, wherein  
20 the NA conversion section includes a plurality  
light guiding prisms disposed in the vicinity of the  
illuminant in the positional relationship so as to be  
point symmetrical with respect to the center of the  
illuminant, and

25 the light guiding prism includes:

an incident surface configured to make the  
outgoing light from the illuminant be incident;

a reflecting surface configured to reflect the light incident from the incident surface and guiding the light in the prism to a predetermined direction; and

5 an outgoing surface configured to radiate the light guided at the reflecting surface.

46. The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the reflecting surface has a surface shape satisfying the conditions that the light incident from the  
10 incident surface is reflected.

47. The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein reflection coating reflecting the light incident from the incident surface is applied on the reflecting surface.

15 48. The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein reflection coating is applied on surfaces which face the other light guiding prisms and which are other than the incident surface, the reflecting surface, and outgoing surface, among the surfaces structuring the  
20 light guiding prism.

49. The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein a rear surface of the reflecting surface structuring the light guiding prism has a surface shape satisfying conditions that the outgoing light from the illuminant  
25 which is not incident to the incident surface which is a surface structuring the light guiding prism is reflected.

50. The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein reflection coating reflecting the outgoing light from the illuminant which is not incident to the incident surface which is a surface structuring the light  
5 guiding prism is applied on the rear surface of the reflecting surface structuring the light guiding prism.

51. The apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising:

10 a light quantity monitor configured to detect the quantity of the light radiated from the optical member, wherein

the movable section and the lighting control section operate together such that the quantity of light detected by the light quantity monitor is  
15 substantially constant.

52. The apparatus according to claim 51, further comprising:

a microreflecting prism configured to reflect the light radiated from the optical member; and

20 a light guiding plate configured to guide the light reflected by the microreflecting prism, to the light quantity monitor.

53. The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein

the plurality of illuminants are disposed so as to  
25 be set in array on double circumferences, and

the at least one optical member is disposed so as to correspond to the respective double circumferences.

54. The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the optical member includes a tapered rod in which an area of the outgoing end surface thereof is larger than an area of the incident end surface thereof.

5 55. The apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising:

a second optical member to which the light radiated from the outgoing end surfaces of the plurality of optical member are incident, wherein

10 the second optical member includes a tapered rod, the tapered rod being fixed to the illuminant substrate and having an outgoing end surface shape which is the substantially same shape as a shape of the objective illumination region.

15 56. The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the outgoing end surface of the optical member is one of a polygon and a circular in which the rotation center of the movable section serves as the center thereof.

20 57. An illumination apparatus illuminating an objective illumination region, comprising:

a plurality of illuminants having light-emitting surfaces radiating diffused light;

25 an illuminant substrate in which the illuminants are disposed so as to be set in array on the circumference;

a plurality of optical member which each have

incident end surfaces and outgoing end surfaces, and  
which are configured to radiate the diffused light  
incident from the incident end surfaces and guide the  
diffused light to the objective illumination region;

5           a movable section configured to drive the optical  
member so as to be rotatable around the center of the  
circumference serving as a rotation center; and

          a lighting control section configured to control a  
light-emitting timing of the plurality of illuminants,  
10          wherein

          the respective outgoing end surfaces of the  
plurality of optical member are in rotation symmetrical  
relationship with respect to the center of the  
circumference.

15          58. The apparatus according to claim 57, wherein  
the outgoing end surface of the optical member has a  
rectangular shape in which the sides facing the center  
of the circumference are the long sides.

          59. The apparatus according to claim 57, wherein  
20          the incident end surface of the optical member is  
a rectangular shape having the long sides in a  
direction of arranging of the illuminants which are set  
in array on the illuminant substrate, and

          the outgoing end surface of the optical member has  
25          a rectangular shape in which the lengths of the  
respective sides of the corresponding incident end  
surface are made longer.

60. The apparatus according to claim 57, wherein the optical member includes a tapered rod in which an area of the outgoing end surface thereof is larger than an area of the incident end surface thereof.

5        61. The apparatus according to claim 57, further comprising:

        a second optical member to which the light radiated from the outgoing end surfaces of the plurality of optical member are incident, wherein

10        the second optical member includes a tapered rod, the tapered rod being fixed to the illuminant substrate and having an outgoing end surface shape which is the substantially same shape as a shape of the objective illumination region.

15        62. The apparatus according to claim 57, wherein the outgoing end surface of the optical member is one of a polygon and a circular in which the rotation center of the movable section serves as the center thereof.

20        63. An image projection apparatus comprising:  
        an illumination apparatus configured to illuminate an objective illumination region, the illumination apparatus including:

        a plurality of illuminants having light-emitting surfaces radiating diffused light;

25

        an illuminant substrate in which the illuminants are disposed so as to be set in array on



the circumference;

at least one optical member configured to guide the diffused light to the objective illumination region;

5 a movable section configured to drive the optical member so as to be rotatable around the center of the circumference serving as a rotation center; and

a lighting control section configured to control a light-emitting timing of the plurality of illuminants, wherein

10 the movable section and the lighting control section operate together such that the quantity of light per unit time of the diffused light guided to the objective illumination region is within a predetermined range;

15 a display device disposed at an objective irradiation region of the illumination apparatus; and

a projection lens configured to project an image formed at the display device on a screen.

20 64. An image projection apparatus comprising:

an illumination apparatus configured to illuminate an objective illumination region, the illumination apparatus including:

25 a plurality of illuminants having light-emitting surfaces radiating diffused light;

an illuminant substrate in which the illuminants are disposed so as to be set in array on

the circumference;

at least one optical member configured to guide the diffused light to the objective illumination region;

5 a movable section configured to drive the plurality of optical member so as to be rotatable around the center of the circumference serving as a rotation center; and

a lighting control section configured to control a light-emitting timing of the plurality of illuminants, wherein

the movable section and the lighting control section operate together such that an area of the light-emitting surface emitting the diffused light for the light guided to the illumination region is within a predetermined range in variations in time;

a display device disposed at an objective irradiation region of the illumination apparatus; and

a projection lens configured to project an image formed at the display device on a screen.

65. An image projection apparatus comprising:

an illumination apparatus configured to illuminate an objective illumination region, the illumination apparatus including:

25 a plurality of illuminants having light-emitting surfaces radiating diffused light;

an illuminant substrate in which the

illuminants are disposed so as to be set in array on  
the circumference;

a plurality of optical member which each have  
incident end surfaces and outgoing end surfaces, and  
5 which are configured to radiate the diffused light  
incident from the incident end surfaces and guide the  
diffused light to the objective illumination region;

a movable section configured to drive the  
optical member so as to be rotatable around the center  
10 of the circumference serving as a rotation center; and

a lighting control section configured to  
control a light-emitting timing of the plurality of  
illuminants, wherein

the respective outgoing end surfaces of the  
15 plurality of optical member are in rotation symmetrical  
relationship with respect to the center of the  
circumference;

a display device disposed at an objective  
irradiation region of the illumination apparatus; and

20 a projection lens configured to project an image  
formed at the display device on a screen.

66. An illumination apparatus illuminating an  
objective illumination region, comprising:

a plurality of illuminants having light-emitting  
25 surfaces radiating diffused light; and

a plurality light guiding prisms disposed in the  
vicinity of the illuminant in the positional

relationship so as to be point symmetrical with respect to the center of the illuminant, wherein

the light guiding prism includes:

an incident surface configured to make the  
5 outgoing light from the illuminant be incident;

a reflecting surface configured to reflect the light incident from the incident surface and guiding the light in the prism to a predetermined direction; and

10 an outgoing surface configured to radiate the light guided at the reflecting surface.

67. The apparatus according to claim 66, wherein the reflecting surface has a surface shape satisfying the conditions that the light incident from the  
15 incident surface is reflected.

68. The apparatus according to claim 66, wherein reflection coating reflecting the light incident from the incident surface is applied on the reflecting surface.

20 69. The apparatus according to claim 66, wherein reflection coating is applied on surfaces which face the other light guiding prisms and which are other than the incident surface, the reflecting surface, and outgoing surface, among the surfaces structuring the  
25 light guiding prism.

70. The apparatus according to claim 66, wherein a rear surface of the reflecting surface structuring the

light guiding prism has a surface shape satisfying conditions that the outgoing light from the illuminant which is not incident to the incident surface which is a surface structuring the light guiding prism is reflected.

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71. The apparatus according to claim 66, wherein reflection coating reflecting the outgoing light from the illuminant which is not incident to the incident surface which is a surface structuring the light guiding prism is applied on the rear surface of the reflecting surface structuring the light guiding prism.

10

72. An illumination apparatus illuminating an objective illumination region, comprising:

a plurality of illuminants having light-emitting surfaces radiating diffused light;

15

an illuminant substrate in which the illuminants are disposed so as to be set in array on the circumference;

at least one optical means for guiding the diffused light to the objective illumination region;

20

movable means for driving the optical means so as to be rotatable around the center of the circumference serving as a rotation center; and

lighting control means for controlling a light-emitting timing of the plurality of illuminants, wherein

25

the movable means and the lighting control means

operate together such that the quantity of light per unit time of the diffused light guided to the objective illumination region is within a predetermined range.

73. An illumination apparatus illuminating an  
5 objective illumination region, comprising:

a plurality of illuminants having light-emitting surfaces radiating diffused light;

an illuminant substrate in which the illuminants are disposed so as to be set in array on the  
10 circumference;

at least one optical means for guiding the diffused light to the objective illumination region;

movable means for driving the plurality of optical means so as to be rotatable around the center of the  
15 circumference serving as a rotation center; and

lighting control means for controlling a light-emitting timing of the plurality of illuminants, wherein

the movable means and the lighting control means  
20 operate together such that an area of the light-emitting surface emitting the diffused light for the light guided to the illumination region is within a predetermined range in variations in time.

74. An illumination apparatus illuminating an  
25 objective illumination region, comprising:

a plurality of illuminants having light-emitting surfaces radiating diffused light;

an illuminant substrate in which the illuminants are disposed so as to be set in array on the circumference;

5 a plurality of optical means which each have incident end surfaces and outgoing end surfaces, and which are for radiating the diffused light incident from the incident end surfaces and guiding the diffused light to the objective illumination region;

10 movable means for driving the optical means so as to be rotatable around the center of the circumference serving as a rotation center; and

lighting control means for controlling a light-emitting timing of the plurality of illuminants, wherein

15 the respective outgoing end surfaces of the plurality of optical means are in rotation symmetrical relationship with respect to the center of the circumference.

75. An image projection apparatus comprising:

20 an illumination apparatus for illuminating an objective illumination region, the illumination apparatus including:

a plurality of illuminants having light-emitting surfaces radiating diffused light;

25 an illuminant substrate in which the illuminants are disposed so as to be set in array on the circumference;

at least one optical means for guiding the  
diffused light to the objective illumination region;

movable means for driving the optical means  
so as to be rotatable around the center of the  
circumference serving as a rotation center; and

lighting control means for controlling a  
light-emitting timing of the plurality of illuminants,  
wherein

the movable means and the lighting control  
means operate together such that the quantity of light  
per unit time of the diffused light guided to the  
objective illumination region is within a predetermined  
range;

a display device disposed at an objective  
irradiation region of the illumination apparatus; and

a projection lens for projecting an image formed  
at the display device on a screen.

76. An image projection apparatus comprising:

an illumination apparatus for illuminating an  
objective illumination region, the illumination  
apparatus including:

a plurality of illuminants having light-  
emitting surfaces radiating diffused light;

an illuminant substrate in which the  
illuminants are disposed so as to be set in array on  
the circumference;

at least one optical means for guiding the



diffused light to the objective illumination region;

movable means for driving the plurality of optical means so as to be rotatable around the center of the circumference serving as a rotation center; and

5           lighting control means for controlling a light-emitting timing of the plurality of illuminants, wherein

the movable means and the lighting control means operate together such that an area of the light-emitting surface emitting the diffused light for the  
10           light guided to the illumination region is within a predetermined range in variations in time;

a display device disposed at an objective irradiation region of the illumination apparatus; and

15           a projection lens for projecting an image formed at the display device on a screen.

77. An image projection apparatus comprising:

an illumination apparatus for illuminating an objective illumination region, the illumination  
20           apparatus including:

a plurality of illuminants having light-emitting surfaces radiating diffused light;

an illuminant substrate in which the illuminants are disposed so as to be set in array on  
25           the circumference;

a plurality of optical means which each have incident end surfaces and outgoing end surfaces, and

which are for radiating the diffused light incident from the incident end surfaces and guiding the diffused light to the objective illumination region;

movable means for driving the optical means  
5 so as to be rotatable around the center of the circumference serving as a rotation center; and

lighting control means for controlling a light-emitting timing of the plurality of illuminants, wherein

10 the respective outgoing end surfaces of the plurality of optical means are in rotation symmetrical relationship with respect to the center of the circumference;

a display device disposed at an objective  
15 irradiation region of the illumination apparatus; and

a projection lens for projecting an image formed at the display device on a screen.